紫色の潔白

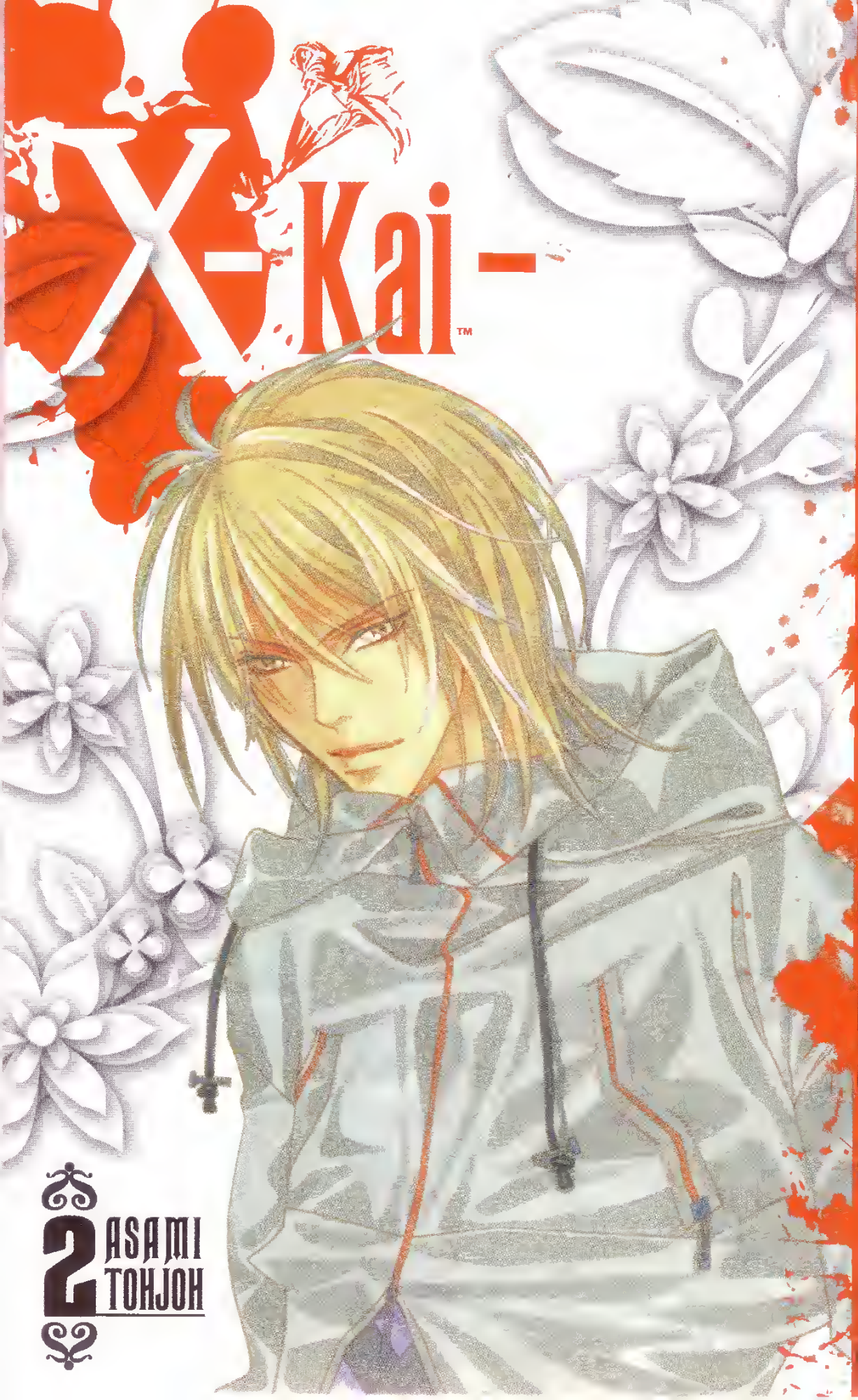
Purple Innocence

DO NOT REDISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION.

I'LL BE WATCHING...

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!!

X-Kai-™



2

ASAMI TOHJOH

TOKYOPOP®

Volume 2

by

Asami Tohjoh

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

X -kai- Vol. 2

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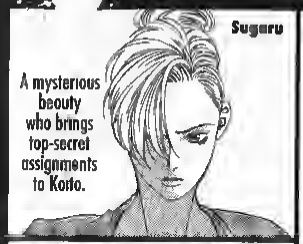
Secret 4

X-Kai-

Cast of Characters



Sugaru

A mysterious beauty who brings top-secret assignments to Kaito.

Renge

A young boy who was rescued from the streets by Kaito and now lives with him.

Kaito Yagami

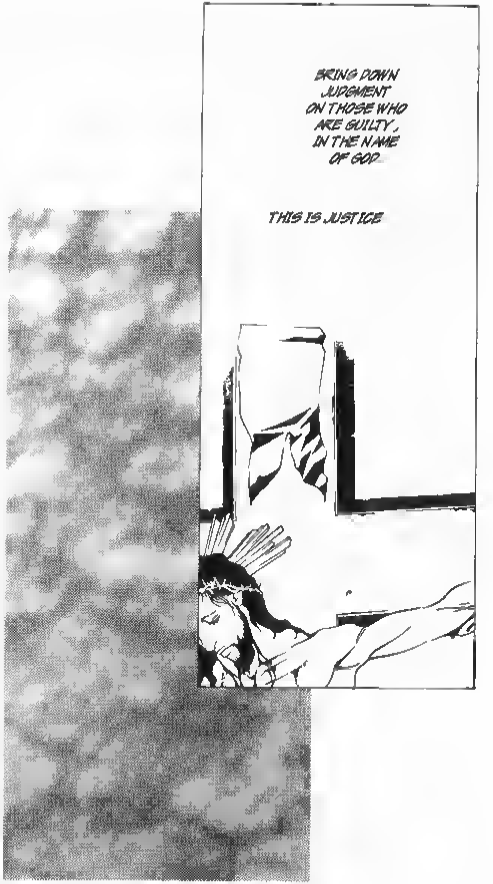
Florist by day and assassin-for-hire by night, this quiet man seems to harbor deep secrets.

The story so far:

Koito lives two very different lives. During the day he runs a flower shop, but at night he is a cold-blooded mercenary killer. When the mysterious beauty Sugaru visits the flower shop with a secret assignment, Kaito carries out the assassination. As his signature he leaves a Casablanca lily, a flower for the dead.

One day, a serial murder case mimicking Koito's methods makes the news. As Kaito seeks the real killer, he meets an innocent young boy named Renge, who has information that helps Kaito find the real killer. However, one of the killings still remains unsolved. Koito discovers that Renge actually committed the murder, imitating Kaito's techniques. Kaito, who sees his younger self in the lonely Renge, swears to protect the boy so that he will never again have to stain his hands with blood. Kaito takes Renge under his wing and into his home.

WE MUST PREPARE FOR THE END TIMES BY BEING VIRTUOUS
CONGRATULATIONS ON CONVERTING TO THE FAITH.
WE AT SHINSEN CHURCH WELCOME YOUNG PEOPLE SUCH AS YOURSELF
THIS IS YOUR CONTRACT FOR ENTERING THE FAITH. PLEASE SIGN HERE.


BRING DOWN JUDGMENT ON THOSE WHO ARE GUILTY, IN THE NAME OF GOD.
THIS IS JUSTICE

WHO--
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DEALING WITH!
SOMEONE WHO EXTORTS MONEY FROM CONVERTS WHILE PRETENDING TO BE THEIR SAVIOR.
SOMEONE WHO LEADS A MONEY-GRUBBING CULT
WHAT... WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
...WITH HELL!
THIS IS THE SEAL ON YOUR CONTRACT...
WHA--?!

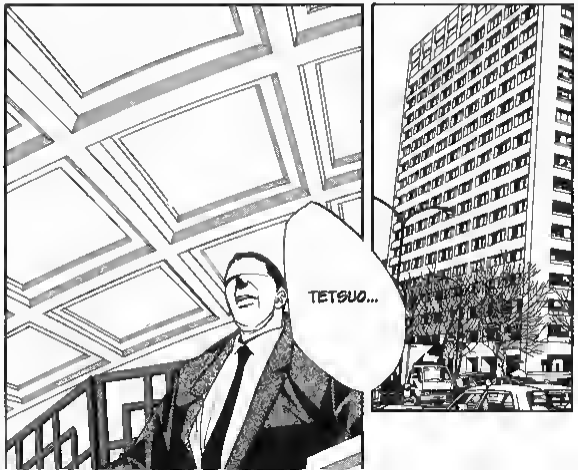
14.
KYAAAAA!

I'M HERE TO PUT AN END TO YOUR BLASPHEMOUS ACTS
MY MISSION IS TO BRING JUSTICE TO ALL.
I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH MONEY AS YOU WANT
PLEASE.
PLEASE DON'T
N--
NO!
SHHHKK
YOU FILTH.

.I TOLD YOU NOT TO USE A KNIFE
BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'VE REALLY DONE THE JOB WITHOUT IT
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST TRY TO AVOID GETTING BLOOD ALL OVER YOURSELF

DON'T BRING HIM INTO THIS
I HAVE MY OWN METHODS!

LIKE KAITO
YOU MUST BE MORE DISCREET

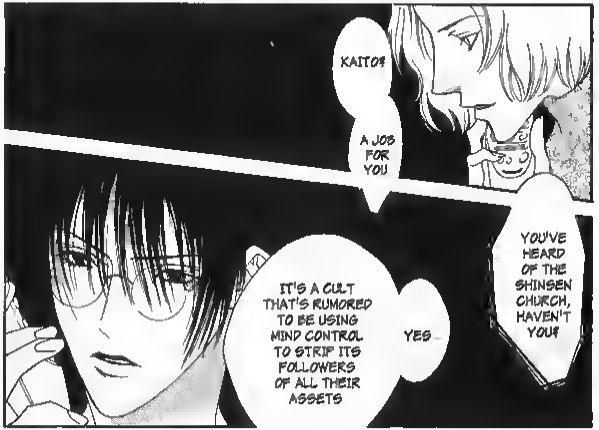

TETSUO...

I SAID I'VE HEARD ENOUGH, TETSUO!
I'M GOING TO HAVE KAITO TAKE OVER
UNLESS I GET RID OF THE CULT'S DIRECTOR, IT WILL PERSIST.
I'M NOT DONE YET.
BUT--

BUT YOU KILLED A WITNESS
WHO CARES?
IT'S JUST ONE MORE BODY.
SHE WAS AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER!

THAT'S ENOUGH.
TETSUO, YOU'RE OFF THE JOB.
THAT'S RIGHT SO NOW SHE'S WITH GOD.
I SHOULD BE THANKED FOR IT.

TRR
TRR
TRR


KAITO?
A JOB FOR YOU
YOU'VE HEARD OF THE SHINSEN CHURCH, HAVEN'T YOU?
YES
IT'S A CULT THAT'S RUMORED TO BE USING MIND CONTROL TO STRIP ITS FOLLOWERS OF ALL THEIR ASSETS

NO, I DON'T WANT YOU TO! I CAN GO SHOPPING BY MYSELF!
My first shopping trip!!
OKAY, OKAY!

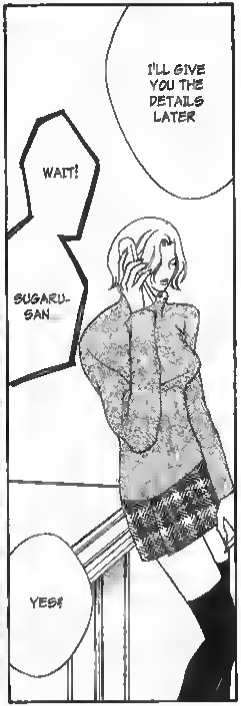
OKAY
HERE'S YOUR WALLET. RENGE DON'T LOSE IT, OKAY?
BREAD, EGGS, AND AND
SHOULD I GO WITH YOU?

ね?—w!
Um

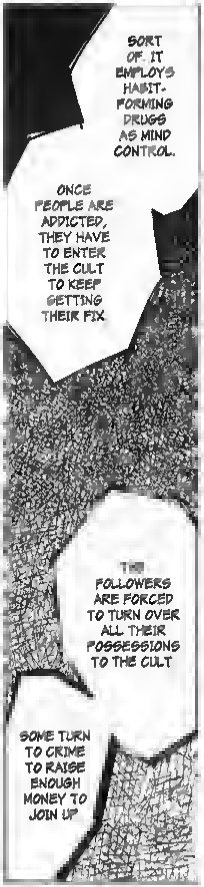
DON'T FALL AND BREAK THE EGGS
I'M NOT GOING TO FALL DOWN!

I SEE

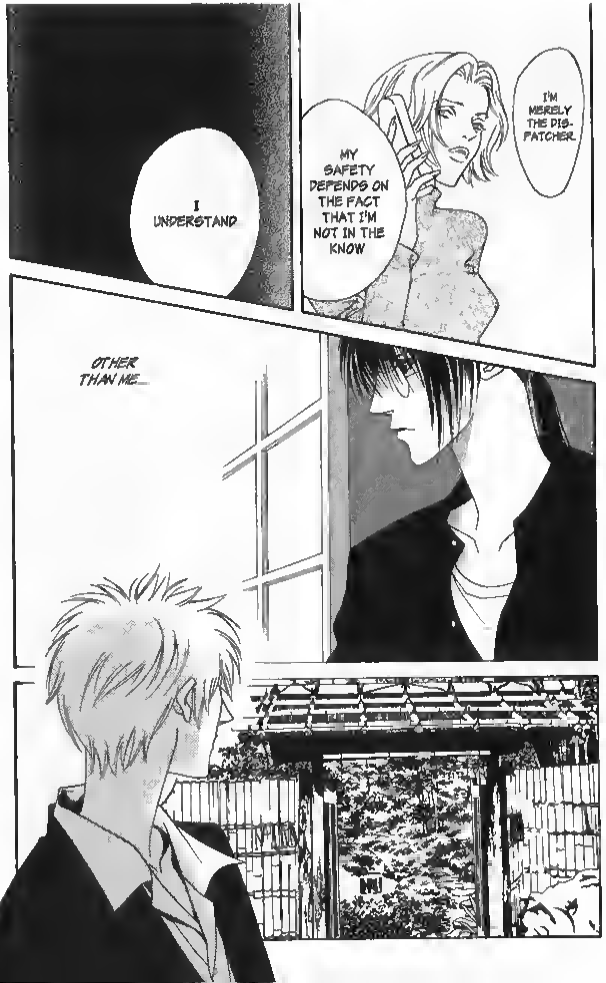
WHO WAS IT...
...WHO TOOK CARE OF THE CULT LEADER?


I'LL GIVE YOU THE DETAILS LATER
WAIT!
SUGARU-SAN
YES?

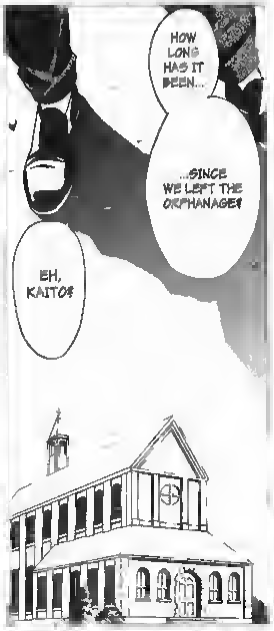
THE FOLLOWERS' FAMILIES CAN'T TAKE LEGAL ACTION. BECAUSE EVERYONE SIGNS AN AGREEMENT WHEN ENTERING THE CULT
SO YOU WANT ME TO GET RID OF THE LEADER?
THEN WHO'S MY TARGET?
THERE'S NO NEED. THE CULT IS TRYING TO CONCEAL HIS DEATH, BUT--
THE LEADER WAS ONLY A FIGUREHEAD. THE NUMBER TWO MAN, THE DIRECTOR, IS ACTUALLY RUNNING THE SHOW

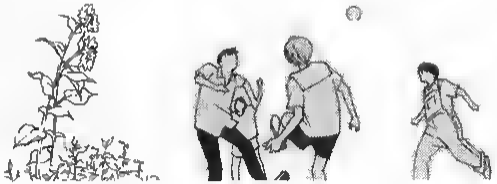

SORT OF. IT EMPLOYS HABIT-FORMING DRUGS AS MIND CONTROL.
ONCE PEOPLE ARE ADDICTED, THEY HAVE TO ENTER THE CULT TO KEEP GETTING THEIR FIX.
THE FOLLOWERS ARE FORCED TO TURN OVER ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS TO THE CULT
SOME TURN TO CRIME TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO JOIN UP

TAP
...THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO COULD'VE DONE IT


I UNDERSTAND
MY SAFETY DEPENDS ON THE FACT THAT I'M NOT IN THE KNOW
I'M MERELY THE DISPATCHER.
OTHER THAN ME...
BIP!

WE GREW UP IN A SMALL ORPHANAGE ATTACHED TO A MONASTERY ON A LITTLE ISLAND.

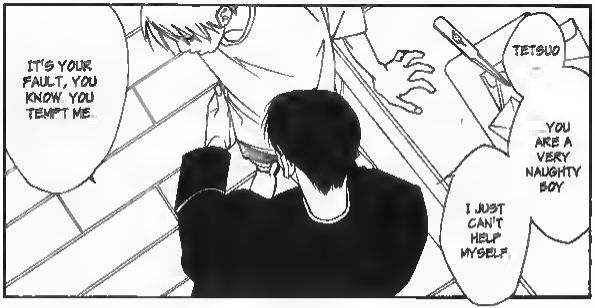


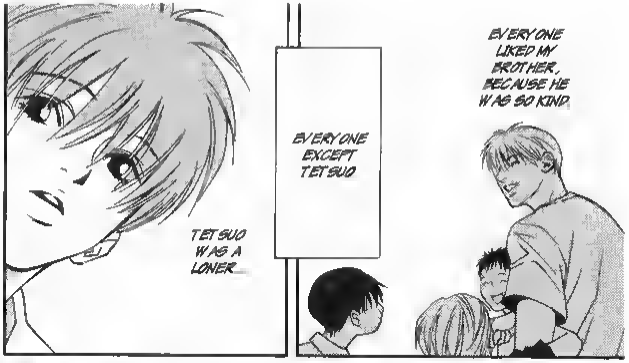


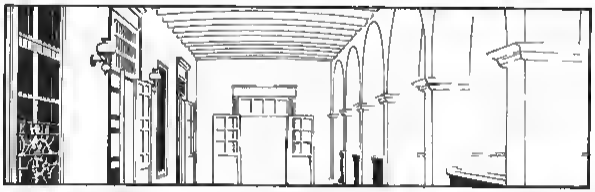
FORGET ABOUT HIM, KAITO
TETSUO!
BUT...
HE'S WEIRD JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE
LET'S GO, BIG BROTHER!
MY OLDER BROTHER WASN'T REALLY EVERYONE ELSE'S BIG BROTHER, BUT...
...HE HELPED ALL THE KIDS WITH THEIR HOMEWORK AND TAUGHT THEM GAMES.
MOST KIDS LEFT THE ORPHANAGE WHEN THEY REACHED A CERTAIN AGE.. BUT NOT MY BROTHER. HE STAYED.

WOW...
KAITO!
TETSUO!
LOOK!
COME QUICK, EVERY-BODY
IT'S BETTER TO KILL THEM BEFORE THEY HATCH.
THEY MESS UP OUR VEGETABLE AND FLOWER GARDENS.
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR, TETSUO?!

FATHER...
PLEASE STOP.


IT'S YOUR FAULT, YOU KNOW. YOU TEMPT ME...
TETSUO...
...YOU ARE A VERY NAUGHTY BOY
I JUST CAN'T HELP MYSELF...

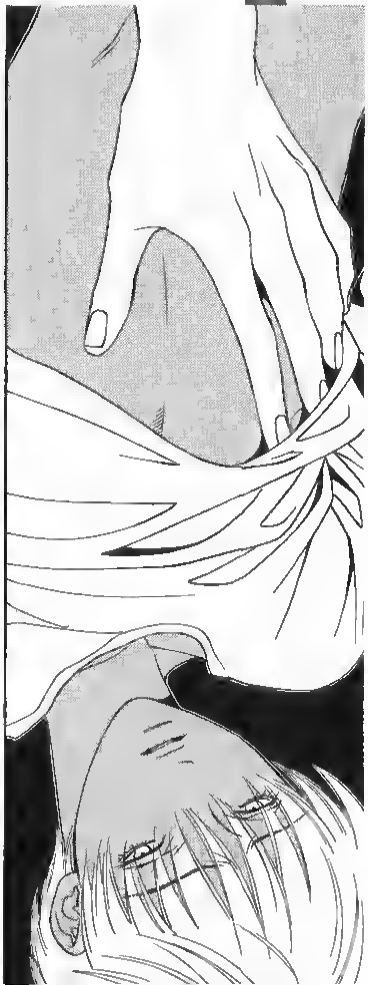

TETSUO WAS A LONER...
EVERYONE EXCEPT TETSUO
EVERYONE LIKED MY BROTHER, BECAUSE HE WAS SO KIND.



TETSUO

LOOK AT TETSUO'S TOMATO PLANT.
IT HAS RIPE TOMA-TOES!
WHAT'S UP, KAITO?

I'M GONNA GO TELL HIM

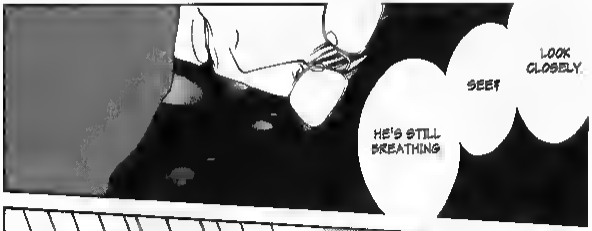


SPLAT

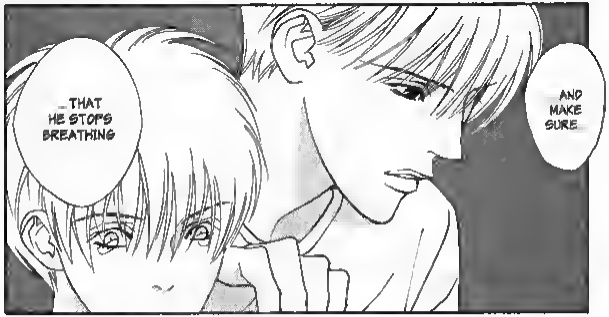
THMP
TETSU..
O
BIG BROTHER!

NOT MY FAULT
IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
TETSUO
CALM DOWN
TETSUO..!
SHUDDER
TETSUO.
NO!
NOT ME...

BUT
KAITO.
GO BACK OUTSIDE.
IT'S OKAY
GO, KAITO.
NOW GO
DON'T BREATHE A WORD ABOUT THIS TO ANYBODY.
OKAY?
UH..
OKAY.


LOOK CLOSELY
SEE?
HE'S STILL BREATHING

HOLD THE KNIFE TIGHT...


...THAT HE STOPS BREATHING
AND MAKE SURE

IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT
I KNOW
THE FATHER COMMITTED A CRIME.
IT WAS THE FATHER--
TETSUO
IT WASN'T MY FAULT
IT .
IT WASN'T ME!
...TAKE THE KNIFE.
NOW, TETSUO
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO JUDGE HIM.
WELL DONE, TETSUO
IT TURNED OUT OUR ORPHANAGE HAD ..
AND MAKE SURE!
..A SECOND, SECRET PURPOSE.
HE STOPS BREATHING.

EVEN IN AN ORPHANAGE FULL OF KIDS WITH NO FAMILIES..
..TETSUO WAS ALL ALONE
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM.
I JUST WANT TO SHOW HIM THE TOMATO HE GREW.
WHERE'S TETSUO?
I DUNNO WHY DO YOU BOTHER WITH THAT SOURPUSS?
COME PLAY SOCCER, KAITO!
LATER!
BUT FOR SOME REASON, I WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH TETSUO.
..AND A KILLING GAZE
HE HAD PIERCING EYES..

I THOUGHT WE WERE FORBIDDEN TO SEE EACH OTHER SOCIALLY
HMM. SO YOU'RE A FLORIST
IN THAT CASE, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY VISITING YOU.
YOU'RE TAKING OVER MY JOB, AREN'T YOU, KAITO?
TETSUO...
Heh, heh.
AS A FLORIST, I FINALLY FOUND OUT
THAT IF YOU JUST PAY THEM A LITTLE ATTENTION, PLANTS FLOURISH
IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE THEY FEEL AND RESPOND TO LOVE FROM HUMANS
WHAT?
MINE ALWAYS DRIED UP AND DIED
YOU WERE THE BEST AT GROWING PLANTS, TETSUO.
I HAD MORE TIME. THAT'S ALL.
I WASN'T INTERESTED IN SPORTS OR KIDS' GAMES

WE PLANNED TO DEAL WITH HIM WHEN WE HAD MORE EVIDENCE.
THE PRIEST WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION
I'M SURPRISED THAT SUCH A YOUNG BOY DID THE JOB FOR US
YOUR COURAGE WILL BE REWARDED!
WE WANT YOU TO JOIN OUR ORGANIZATION
THIS KNIFE IS YOURS, NOW.
IT'S SECRET PURPOSE WAS..
YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW, TETSUO.
AND SO I FOUND MY PLACE AT LAST
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, KAITO
...TO TRAIN SOME OF THE ORPHANS AS ASSASSINS

THIS JOB... YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE IT, KAITO.
!
IT'S NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE.
AND IF THEY THINK YOU CAN'T DO IT, YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE EITHER TETSUO
I SEE
SO, YOU DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THAT KID.

KAITO
TETSUO !
I WANT TO GO SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN TALK ALONE
CAN WE? NOW?
WHY IS IT ALWAYS YOU?
HOW CAN YOU BE SUCH A SOFTY?
SHIT!
RENGE WILL BE BACK SOON.
NO
NOT TODAY.
IF YOU'RE THINKING OF THAT KID..
HE WON'T BE BACK ANY TIME SOON.
WHAT?
I ASK YOU AGAIN
CAN WE GO?
THE SUN'S GOING DOWN ALREADY
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

I DON'T NEED WEAPONS BECAUSE...
WE'RE FRIENDS
PRETTY CONFIDENT, AREN'T YOU?
YOU THINK YOU DON'T NEED WEAPONS TO FIGHT ME?!
I WON'T FIGHT YOU, TETSUO
GIVE RENGE BACK TO ME.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING
SEE?
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN MY WAY, KAITO
PUT AN END TO THIS.
I HAD WANTED TO.
.....!
RENGE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
IT'S THE TRUTH.
I DON'T NEED WEAPONS TO TALK TO YOU.
TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES EVERY STITCH.
BE QUIET
TETSUO --
I CAN'T TRUST YOU!
I'M UNARMED.
YOU'RE AN ASSASSIN, TOO

THE ONE WE WANT IS KAITO
HE'S NOT THE ONE THE ORGANI-ZATION WANTS
SHOOT I LEFT MY KNIFE IN THE ROOM.
HE'S NOT A DOG THAT WOULD BE CONTENT ON A LEASH
I DON'T THINK HE'S RIGHT FOR IT.
HEH HEH
KAITO IS A SMART, GOOD BOY
BUT...

Hmph
I DON'T WANT ANY FRIENDS
FRIENDS? HOW NICE
AS LONG AS I HAVE THIS I DON'T NEED ANYBODY!
YOU'VE GOT SOME SCREWY IDEAS
RELYING ON A TOOL ONLY MAKES YOU WEAKER.
DOES BRANDISHING A KNIFE MAKE YOU FEEL POWERFUL? YOU KNOW THAT'S AN ILLUSION
I'LL SHOW YOU I'M NOT WEAK!
I TOLD YOU...
SHIT.
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN MY WAY

KAITO LOOKS EASYGOING, BUT HE WON'T BE TAMED EASILY.
THAT'S WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT HIM.
I HAVE NO USE FOR A MUTT THAT'LL WAG HIS TAIL AT ANYONE WHO FEEDS HIM!
KAITO IS A HUNTING DOG. HE'D NEVER BETRAY HIS MASTER ONCE HE SWEARS ALLEGIANCE.
!
MUTT..
I'M A MUTT?!
KAITO!
I'LL SHOW HIM.
AHH!
WHO IS THE HUNTING DOG?
WOOSH
GAHH!

NO...
NO!
HELP ME!
NO.

EVEN IF YOU'VE GOT ME FROM BEHIND, YOU CAN'T KILL ME EMPTY-HANDED LET ME GO!
I TOLD YOU.
CRACK
IT'S ONLY AN ILLUSION THAT A KNIFE MAKES YOU STRONG

TINK
STOP...
...IT!

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR TEMPTING ME
...UNNHHH...
TETSUO...
YOU'RE THE GUILTY ONE...
HELP.
NO!
IT HURTS SO MUCH.
FATHER--
IT HURTS.

HA
SEE, YOU CAN DO IT
haaah
PLIP
YOU DON'T NEED A KNIFE.

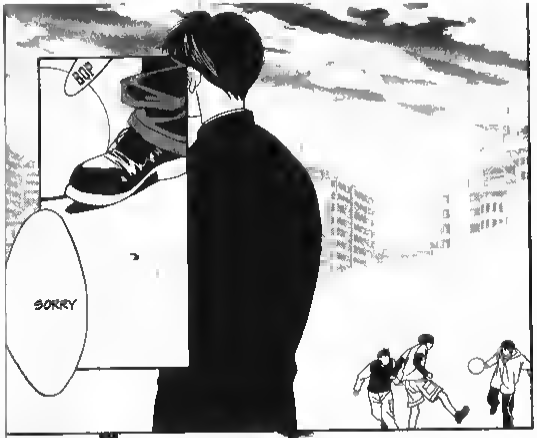
YAAAAH!
UGH...
DON'T TOUCH ME!
DON'T...
...TOUCH ME!

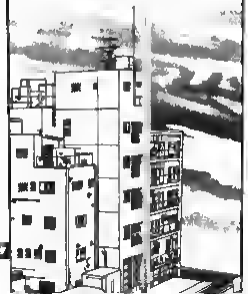
IT WAS HIDING HIS FEAR.
I C-CAN'T SLEEP.
WHEN I DO, THE FATHER APPEARS, AND—
NOTHING'S CHANGED.
EVEN NOW,
WHAT ARE YOU—
—SO AFRAID OF?

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND BACK THEN.
TETSUO'S DEADLY GAZE...
!

YOU CAN FIGHT BACK
EVEN WITHOUT A KNIFE NOW
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YOU'RE A GROWN MAN
. WHO CAN PROTECT HIMSELF WITH HIS OWN TWO HANDS
I'M TIRED

IF I DON'T KILL HIM, HE'LL KILL ME
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I KILL HIM, HE GETS BACK UP
TETSUO...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL ANYMORE.





I'LL SLEEP ON THE BED, WITH BARE FEET.

TONIGHT, I'LL TAKE MY SHOES OFF.

...I'VE BEEN SLEEPING ON THE SOFA WITH MY SHOES ON. SO I CAN RUN AWAY ANYTIME.
YOUR LITTLE BRAT IS IN THE UTILITY ROOM...
JUST ABOVE HERE

H-HE WASN'T A STRANGER!
HE SAID HE'S YOUR FRIEND.
RENGE! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY AWAY FROM STRANGERS, REMEMBER?
KAI!
RIGHT?
YEAH.
10
TETSUO IS A FRIEND
SOMEONE I GREW UP WITH AT THE ORPHANAGE.

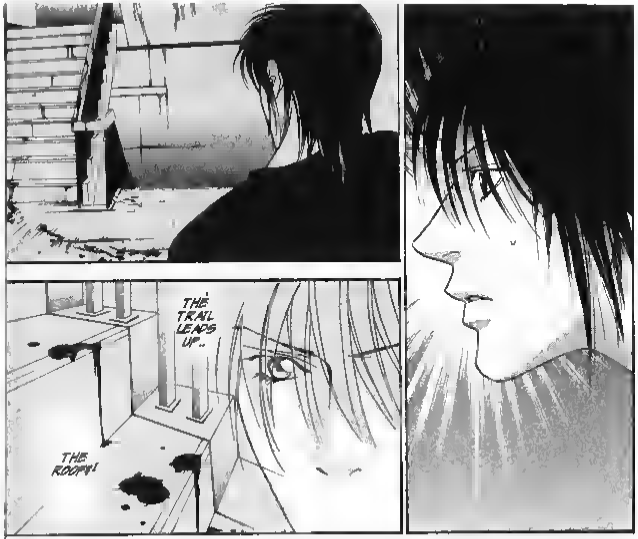
WHEN WE WERE KIDS
I WANTED TO BELONG TO BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE
THE TRUTH IS

I DON'T...
I WANT TO BE ALONE ANYMORE.
TETSUO--!
I REALLY DID WANT TO PLAY SOCCER WITH EVERYBODY
I...
COME ON, LET'S PLAY SOCCER!

A MUTT CAN'T BE A HUNTING DOG AFTER ALL.
YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED QUIET AND KEPT WAGGING YOUR TAIL.
TETSUO.
THERE'S A LIMIT TO THE BOSS'S LOVE FOR YOU

AND YOU CAN'T GO UP AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION.
HEY, KAITO.

Secret 4 ✤ End



...AGGRESSION IS INDUCED.
WHEN ONE IS UNABLE TO CONTROL THE
THAT MEASURES A MERE 10 MILLIMETERS.
THE AMYGDALOID NUCLEUS. IT IS AN ALMOND-SHAPED STRUCTURE.
THE AREA THAT CONTROLS AGGRESSION IS IN THE BRAIN'S
IT IS A SMALL, LITTLE MASS OF NERVE CELLS.
THE HUMAN BRAIN WEIGHS APPROXIMATELY ONE KILOGRAM.
TETSU...OI!

Exerpt from Psychology of Crime Analysis Manual (Dobun Press)

NO...
IN THE WATER TANK?!

SWOOSH

THAT'S ALMOST FUNNY, COMING FROM YOU
SOMEONE WHO HAS KILLED MORE THAN A FEW OF "US."
WITH YOUR COLD, CALM SMILE...

IT HAD TO BE DONE
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY
TETSUO WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ANYBODY
.....
YOU GREW UP IN THE ORPHANAGE TOO, DIDN'T YOU?!
WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER!
Huh.

HOW CAN YOU BLAME ME FOR ANYTHING?

IT WASN'T ME WHO KILLED TETSUO.

THE ORGANIZATION KILLED HIM, USING ME AS ITS TOOL.

YOU'RE ONE OF ITS TOOLS TOO, AREN'T YOU?

LOOK--YOU DON'T SHED A SINGLE TEAR, EVEN THOUGH YOUR FRIEND HAS BEEN KILLED

IF I FAIL, WOULD YOU PLEASE DO THIS FOR ME?
WHAT IS IT?
HERE'S THE DEED FOR MY SHOP AND THE LAND
I ALSO HAVE SOME SAVINGS.
WITH THIS...
...YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF MY BROTHER'S TREATMENT AND RENGE.
AT LEAST, AS LONG AS THE MONEY LASTS
IT'S THE DIRECTOR OF THE SHINSEN CULT
SEIICHI OKONOGI
RIGHT?
KAITO
DELIVER A CASABLANCA LILY
HUH?
ERR, NOT THAT HE'S MY TYPE OR ANYTHING!
SUGARU SAN...
I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE. THE CULT HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS ALMOST EVERY DAY
HE'S KINDA HANDSOME, ACTUALLY
BUT HIS EYES ARE... HOW DO I PUT IT? LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING

HEY!
OH!
WHAT-- I THOUGHT THIS WAS
ABANDONED
YOU'RE KANZAKI-SAN'S SON, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT THE--?
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
AREN'T YOU...
I OFTEN DELIVER FLOWERS TO YOUR HOUSE.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE POWER OF WORDS?
DON'T SAY WORDS LIKE "FAIL" WHAT IF IT COMES TRUE?
YOU'VE NEVER FAILED IN THE PAST, AND YOU NEVER WILL.
BUT I'M NOT A MACHINE.
SLAM!
THE NEXT JOB MIGHT BE MY FIRST FAILURE.

OH NO!
KILLING INNOCENT INSECTS LIKE THAT!
WHAT A CRUEL CHILD
.. DID YOU?
YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL IT...
I USED TO DO THAT, TOO

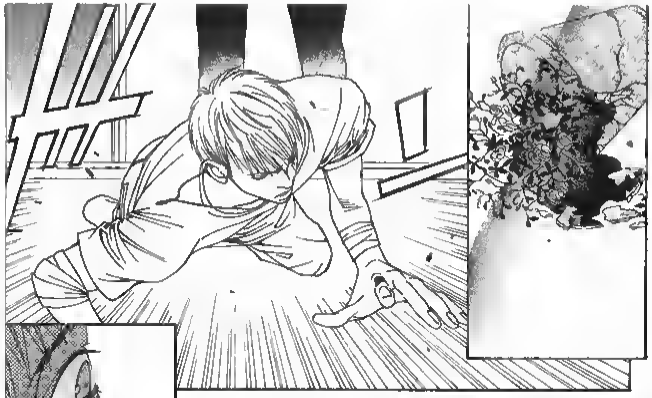
THEY TOLD HER THE REASON I GOT INVOLVED WITH THE YAKUZA WAS BAD ANCESTRAL KARMA.
SHIT
BUNCH OF LIARS
YEAH.
MY MOM'S INTO SOME CULT
HAVE A BIG ALTAR THERE, DON'T YOU?
THEY'RE MAKING HER BUY VASES AND HEALTH APPLIANCES AND STUFF FROM THEM.
KAI!
LOOK, LOOK-- I CAUGHT A DRAGONFLY!

BY THE TIME I FINALLY STOPPED TO THINK ABOUT IT, I HAD THIS
MY MOTHER ABANDONED ME LONG AGO
BECAUSE...
NOW YOU HAVE...
THAT'S NOT TRUE! HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
THAT'S NOT--

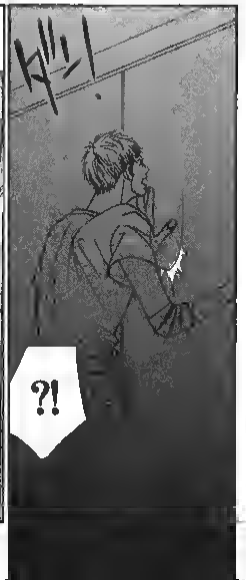
I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE HER SAD.
I JUST WANTED TO...
...SHOW MY MOTHER THE BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY.
WHEN I WAS A KID--
IT'S REALLY STUPID, BUT...
...A SHOP OWNER CAME TO OUR HOUSE AND ACCUSED ME OF SHOPLIFTING.
I WAS INNOCENT, BUT MY MOTHER PAID HIM AND APOLOGIZED ANYWAY
EVERYTHING BECAME INCONSEQUENTIAL TO ME. WHAT'S SCHOOL OR GRADES GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING ANYWAY, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THAT MY MOTHER DIDN'T BELIEVE IN ME AT ALL.
IT WAS SUCH A PETTY THING TO DO

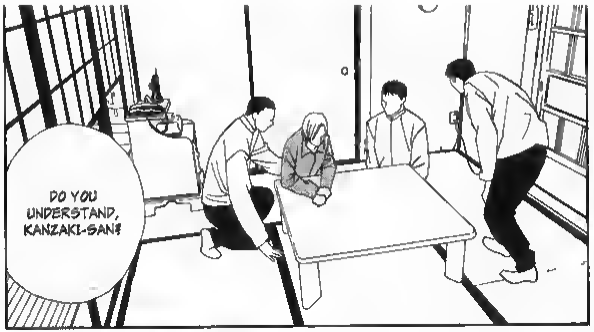
MAYBE I COULD...
BUY MY MOTHER A PRESENT ONCE IN A WHILE.
HEY...
THIS IS A FLOWER SHOP, ISN'T IT?

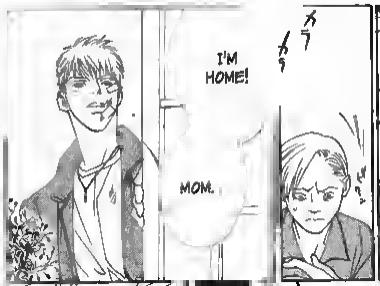
YOU HAVE HANDS BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD A BUTTERFLY WITHOUT KILLING IT.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO MAKE YOUR MOTHER SAD ANYMORE.
.....

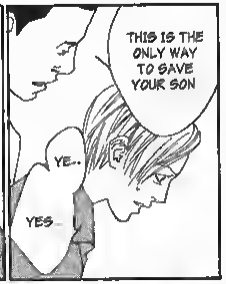


GET--
GET ME OUT OF HERE! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?


?!


DO YOU UNDERSTAND, KANZAKI-SAN?


I'M HOME!
MOM.


THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOUR SON
YE..
YES.

WHO--
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WHA--?!

HE DOESN'T USUALLY TELL ME WHERE HE'S GOING
.....
WHERE DID HE GO?

OH! THAT'S THE PLANT HE BOUGHT FOR YOU.
DIDN'T HE TELL YOU THAT EITHER?
WHAT...?
.....!

I CAME BY TO SEE HOW THE FLOWER THAT YUSUKE-SAN BOUGHT WAS DOING
HELLO I'M YAGAMI, FROM THE GARDEN SHOP
KANZAKI-SAN?

...NOT HERE
YUSUKE IS HE IS

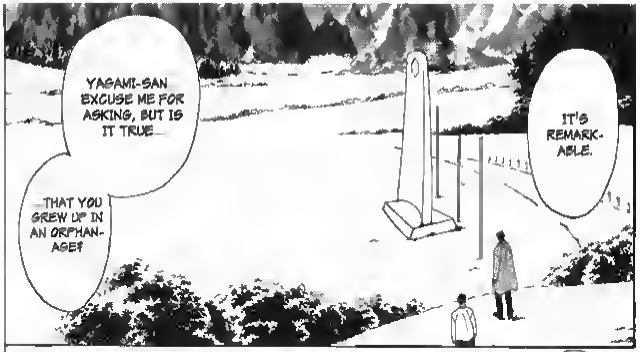
LEGAL SEAL.
YOUR BANK BOOK
PROPERTY TITLE.
IT'S ALL HERE.
..IT'S THE SHINSEN CHURCH.

HE'S AT A SEMINAR HELD BY A RELIGIOUS ORGANI-ZATION

WHAT RELIGIOUS ORGANI-ZATION?
THEY SAID IF I DIDN'T INTERVENE, HE WOULD END UP COMMITTING A TERRIBLE CRIME.
WELL..
I'M NOT WORRIED. OUR LEADER WILL HELP YUSUKE OUT OF HIS MESS.

SHOW HIM AROUND.
CLICK
GET ME ALL THE INFORMATION YOU CAN ABOUT THAT MAN
WHAT?
WE'VE ALREADY DONE OUR INVESTIGATION.
NOTHING UNUSUAL CAME UP.
THAT MAN...

MONEY-- IT'S THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE
BY GIVING IT UP TO GOD, YOU ARE SWEARING LOYALTY TO GOD.
I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND ALREADY...
...UM... YAGAMI-SAN.
YOU WERE INTRODUCED TO US BY KANZAKI-SAN, RIGHT?
YES.


YAGAMI-SAN EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING, BUT IS IT TRUE...
...THAT YOU GREW UP IN AN ORPHAN-AGE?
IT'S REMARK-ABLE.

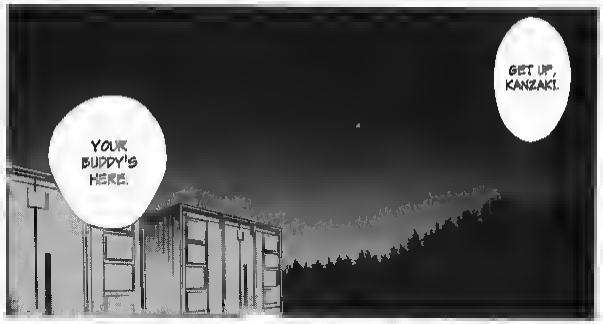
PARADISE...
COMPARED TO THAT, THIS MUST BE PARADISE.
YES.
WELCOME TO PARADISE, YAGAMI-SAN
THE ENVIRONMENT WAS NOT NEARLY AS LUXURIOUS AS THIS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HE'S HIDING SOMETHING FROM US.
THERE'S A HOSPITAL, A SCHOOL...
VARIOUS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
WE HAVE SPECIALISTS FROM MANY FIELDS OF STUDY
THAT'S THE NATURE OF OUR ORGANI-ZATION
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
!
IT'S TOO FAR AWAY FOR STORING FOOD.
THERE'S NO FOOD IN HERE, IS THERE?
.....
DIDN'T YOU GET ENOUGH TO EAT, YAGAMI-SAN?
WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE?
SNIFFING AROUND LIKE A DIRTY RAT, ARE YOU?

THEY'RE FOR STORING FOOD
I'LL SHOW YOU THE OTHER FACILITIES COME.
WHAT ARE THOSE CONTAIN-ERS?
PARADISE.

KILL THEM ALL.
THAT'S...
..THE FIRST THING..
..I WAS TAUGHT.
YUSUKE-SAN..?!
CLANG


GET UP, KANZAKI.
YOUR BUDDY'S HERE.

!
STOP IT!

KATO.
REMEMBER.
A WILD GAZELLE PIES WITH IT'S EYES WIDE OPEN, EVEN IF IT'S BEING RIPPED TO SHREDS.
CLOSING YOUR EYES MEANS GIVING UP.
IT REDUCES YOUR CHANCE OF SURVIVAL TO ZERO.
DURING THE LESSON...
MY THOUGHTS TOOK A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.
EYES...
I WONDER WHAT THE GAZELLE SEES AT THAT MOMENT.
WHAT WILL I SEE WHEN THE WORLD TURNS BRIGHT RED?
THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO SEE.
THAT'S RIGHT...
AND THAT IS

YUSUKE-SAN!
THUD
RUSTLE RUSTLE

!
YOU..
TEETER
WHOA!

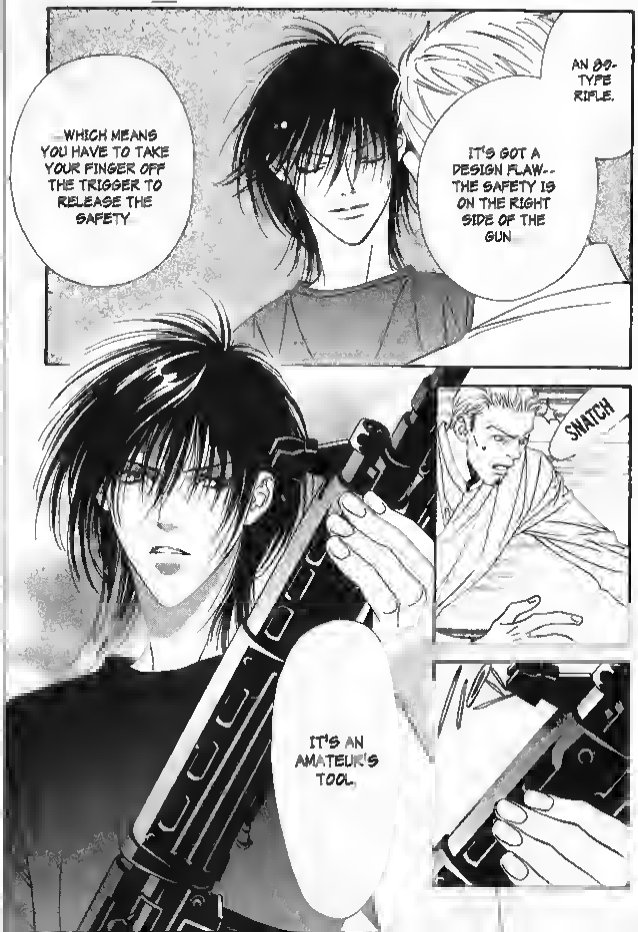
SALVATION SEMINAR?! DAMN MY MOTHER
THEY MADE US KILL EACH OTHER!
THEY SAID THAT THEY WOULD ONLY HELP THE SURVIVOR.
HUFF
HFF ..
HAAH
WHEN I GET HOME, I'LL KILL HER!
SHE SOLD ME TO THIS GODDAMNED PLACE!
TH-THEY'RE CRAZY!!
IF WE REFUSED, THEY TORTURED US
THOSE
YUSUKE-SAN
THOSE MEN--!
THEY PUT TWO OF US TOGETHER INTO A CONTAINER.
GUYS LIKE ME, WHO HAVE NO IDEA WHY WE'RE HERE, AND...
THEY..

MAYBE YOU'RE A COP OR A REPORTER.
I INVESTIGATED YOUR PAST. BUT YOU'RE CLEAN
A MAN WITH NO TROUBLE DOESN'T NEED RELIGION

SHHH!
CRACK
YOU DIRTY RAT.

YOUR MOTHER DOESN'T NEED YOU ANYMORE.
S-S--
STOP IT!
DON'T SHOOT.

IT DOESN'T MATTER
YOU WILL ALL BE PURGED.
MAKING US FIGHT AND KILL..
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS?!
WHY--
WHAT KIND OF RELIGION IS THIS?
WHY DO YOU HAVE GUNS?
WHAT HAVE YOU ACCOMPLISHED? YOU'VE LOST YOUR MOTHER'S TRUST AND KILLED HER SOUL WITH YOUR EVIL DEEDS
YOU LOSERS ARE PARASITES
WE'RE SAVING OUR FOLLOWERS FROM BEING EXPLOITED BY TRASH LIKE YOU


AN 89-TYPE RIFLE.
IT'S GOT A DESIGN FLAW-- THE SAFETY IS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE GUN
WHICH MEANS YOU HAVE TO TAKE YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER TO RELEASE THE SAFETY.
SNATCH
IT'S AN AMATEUR'S TOOL.

WHAT...?
THE SAFETY IS ON.
!
LET GO!

W--
WOW.

S-A-R
!
SAR!

CHUCKLE
IS IT SOME KIND OF SPELL?

IT'S NO SPELL.
KACHUNK

I WANT TO SHOOT IT, TOO!!
IF I CAN'T WEAR THE GANG'S CREST, I'LL SETTLE FOR A BULLET.
IS THIS FOR REAL?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS

IT'S TIGHT...

WHA...?!

.....
OH, I SEE...
A IS FOR AUTO-MATIC
S IS FOR SAFETY
R IS FOR REPEAT...

ARE YOU A GUN COLLECTOR OR SOMETHING?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A FLORIST, BUT...
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE USED TO HANDLING GUNS...
I'M JUST...
JUST AN ASSASSIN FOR HIRE

HELP
UFF!
M...

WHAT?
I'M TRULY SORRY BUT..
YUSUKE-SAN, I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST YOU
THAT'S THE CARDINAL RULE FOR PROS
WHA--
HEY!
WHOEVER KNOWS MY REAL IDENTITY MUST DIE.
YOU DON'T MEAN...

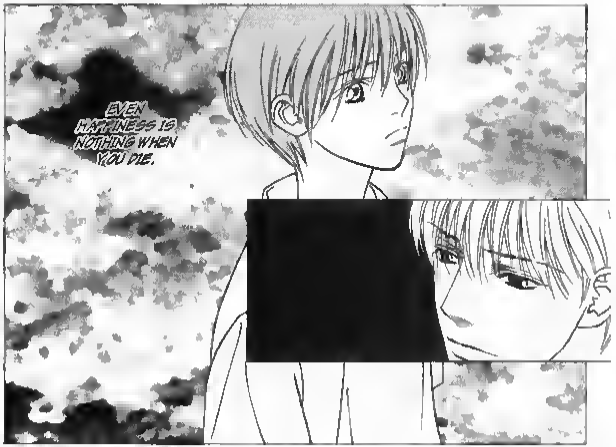
UFF!
YOU'RE NO KILLER.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN A GOOD SHIELD. YOU'RE JUST A COWARD.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT BECOMING YAKUZA.

MOM...!

REMEMBER, KATO. IF YOU DON'T ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION, I WON'T BE THERE FOR YOU.
DON'T RELY ON ANYBODY.
BUT DON'T WORRY EITHER...
IF YOU EVER LOSE YOUR WAY AND GO BACK TO THE SHADOWS...
IF THAT HAPPENS
GO BACK TO YOUR MOTHER AND LEAD A RESPECTFUL LIFE.
I PROMISE.
I'LL BE DECENT.
I GOT IT.
ALL RIGHT.

WHY ..
..DID HE RESCUE ME?
MY BIG BROTHER, THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THOSE THINGS ..
MOM...!
I DON'T KNOW ..
..MY MOTHER AT ALL.
HE MUST HAVE SEEN HIS MOTHER THEN.

HEY, KAITO. ALL EMOTIONS .. PAIN, SORROW,
THEY'RE ALL ILLUSIONS THAT YOUR BRAIN CREATES
JUST BE A TOOL. A TOOL HAS NO FEELINGS.


EVEN HAPPINESS IS NOTHING WHEN YOU DIE.

DARK.
NESS.
BLACK.

WHEN I FACE DEATH ONE DAY, THE IMAGE I SEE WILL BE...

WELCOME HOME!!
KAI!

BROTHER, WHY DID YOU RESCUE ME?
IF I WERE STILL A TOOL WITHOUT FEELINGS, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO BOTHER WITH THIS KIND OF EMOTION...
I'M...

THIS PLACE..
..OUTSIDE THE DARKNESS
Secret 5 ◆ End
I WANT TO COME BACK HERE
EVERY TIME.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THIS
WARMTH.
BRIGHT SUNSHINE
IT'S NICE TO BE HOME
TENDER HAPPINESS

Secret 6

I DON'T CARE NOBU'S TWO-TIMING, TOO.
BUT REMEMBER, I CALLED HIM FIRST!
NOT FAIR, CHIKA. WHAT ABOUT NOBU-KUN?

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS PLANT?
MY MOM HAS NO IDEA HOW TO TAKE CARE OF PLANTS
MAYBE I'LL LEAVE IT IN THE PARK
I BET IT'S FULL OF BUGS AND STUFF

KEEP IT IN A SUNNY SPOT. IT'LL FLOWER LIKE FIREWORKS
YAGAMI
LIKE FIREWORKS?!

CHIKA, YOU'RE RIGHT.
KAITO-SAN IS SO CUTE.
I TOLD YOU SO

GIVE IT BACK!
GIVE IT BACK, RENGE.
NO!
THAT'S THE PLANT I BOUGHT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THAT KID? BRAT!
THUMP

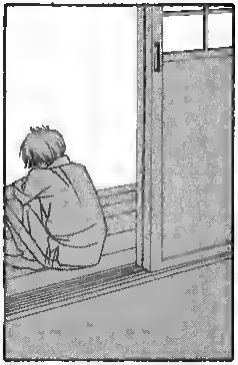
HEY, STOP IT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!!
WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS KID!
KAITO-SAN.
RENGE!

JUST BEING NICE TO HIM ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM A DECENT HUMAN BEING
PETS NEED TO BE DISCIPLINED, TOO, YOU KNOW.
RENGE NEEDS TO CONTROL HIMSELF.
BESIDES...
...THE REAL QUESTION IS WHETHER YOU'RE CAPABLE OF RAISING A CHILD.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD CONSIDER.
PUTTING HIM IN AN ORPHANAGE?
HE NEEDS TO LEARN HOW TO SOCIALIZE.

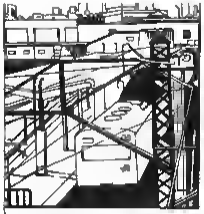
AND...
HE NEEDS TO GO TO SCHOOL.
THAT'S WHAT HE NEEDS

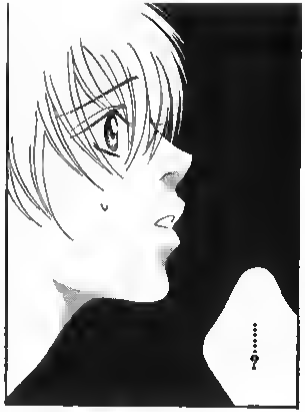
I'M GOING OUT TO MAKE A DELIVERY, RENGE.



WHAT'S THIS?
!

..TOO HEAVY A BURDEN FOR ME.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YAGAMI
CARING FOR SOMEONE OTHER THAN MYSELF MAY BE.




.....?

RENGE WAS TRYING TO...
SO...

.....
WE'RE GOING OUT.
GO GET READY

RENGE...

I'LL WAIT A WHILE!
DISCIPLINE IS NECESSARY YOU MUST TEACH HIM TO CONTROL HIMSELF.
HE WON'T GROW UP TO BE A DECENT HUMAN BEING

DO YOU WANT SOME ICE CREAM, RENGE?
STARE
NO THANKS

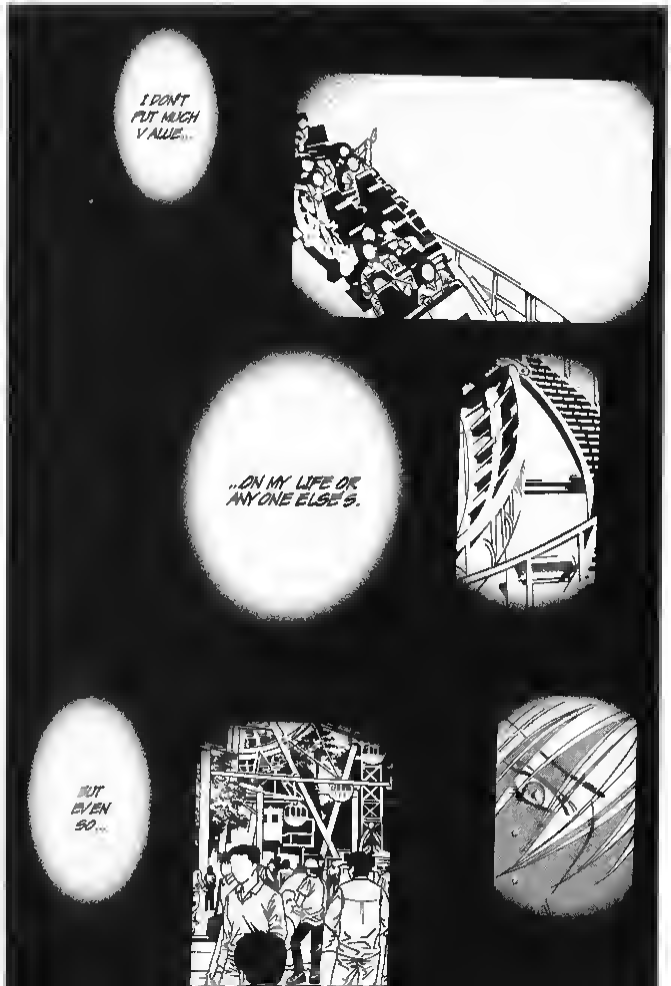
.....

IT'S OKAY.
GO ON AS MANY RIDES AS YOU WANT.

WAAHHH
DADDY!
MOMMY!
RENGE...?

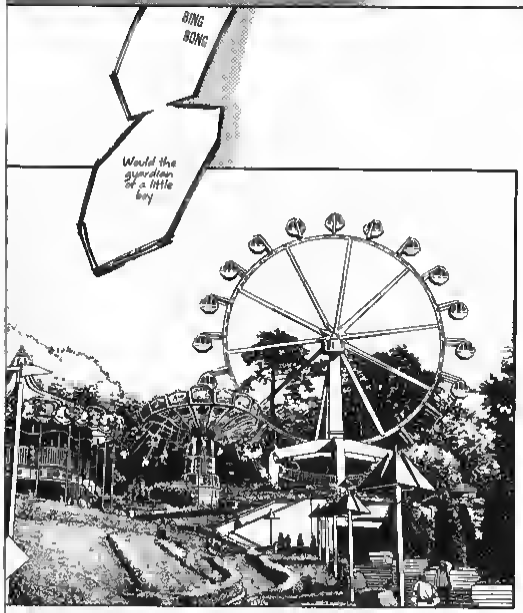
I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE.
YOU WAIT HERE, OKAY, RENGE?
I'LL GO BUY SOME ANYWAY

SOB
SOB
SOB


I DON'T PUT MUCH VALUE...
..ON MY LIFE OR ANY ONE ELSE'S.
BUT EVEN SO...

PERHAPS I WAS WISHING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE.
I AM, AFTER ALL, A PERSON WHO NO ONE NEEDS.
THERE'S NO ONE TO THINK OF ME...
RENGE!

...RAISING RENGE AS A WAY OF ATONING FOR ALL THE LIVES I'VE TAKEN.
AT HEART, MAYBE I WAS..

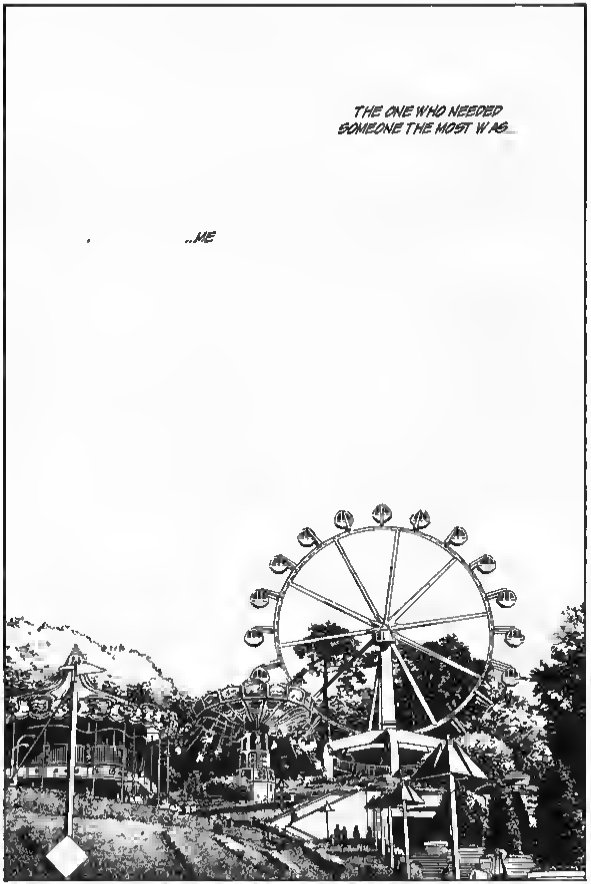

BING BONG
Would the guardian of a little boy

I WANTED SOMEONE...
...TO NEED ME.

YOU DON'T KNOW IF RENGE TOOK YOUR SON OR NOT.
WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN OUR EYES OFF OUR PRECIOUS BOYS, BOTH YOU AND ME
I WANT TO BE NEEDED BY SOMEONE.
I'LL BE GOOD, SO--
THAT WAS MY WISH, BUT...
...DON'T LET ME GET SENT AWAY.
KAI...
I...

HE TOOK MY SON!!
I TOOK MY EYES OFF HIM FOR A MINUTE, AND--
ARE YOU HIS GUARDIANS?
Information
LET'S GO, RENGE
WAIT A MINUTE, YOU!

Democratic Party of ...
Birthday Celebration for
Masakazu Morimoto
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
DON'T SAY THAT, SIR
THE FUTURE OF JAPAN IS ON YOUR SHOULDERS
I'M TOO OLD TO BE HAPPY ABOUT MY BIRTHDAY
TWIST
I GUESS YOU GUYS WOULDN'T LET ME RETIRE AND TAKE IT EASY, WOULD YOU?
SIR...?
MR. MORIMOTO!!
WELL DONE.


THE ONE WHO NEEDED SOMEONE THE MOST WAS
..ME

Secret 6 ⚜ End

I KNOW, KAITO
BUT YOU CAN'T LET THOSE WHO ABUSE THEIR POWER RUN RAMPANT AND HURT PEOPLE, CAN YOU?
I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE LAST KILL.
HE SUFFERED BURNS ALL OVER HIS BODY WHILE TRYING TO SAVE YOU FROM THAT FIRE
BESIDES, HOW ELSE CAN YOU PAY YOUR BROTHER'S MEDICAL BILLS? THEY'RE NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT, ARE THEY?
WOULD YOU ABANDON YOUR BROTHER, WHO IS BLIND AND UNABLE TO MOVE?
THE PEOPLE WHO GET HURT ARE ALWAYS THE POWERLESS
JUST LIKE YOU USED TO BE .
GOOD BOY, KAITO.
YOU ARE NEEDED TO RID THE AILING WORLD OF ITS INFECTIONS.
I'LL AWAIT YOUR INSTRUC-TIONS

KAITO.
I HOPE YOU'LL DO AS WELL ON YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT.
Secret 7

TOK TOK
HIS OLDER BROTHER IS HOSPITALIZED!
SO KAITO IS TAKING ASSIGNMENTS TO PAY FOR HIS TREATMENT
YOU'RE KAITO'S MESSENGER, AREN'T YOU?
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME SOMETHING.
?!
CLIK
I GUESS IT'S MY IMAGINATION.

KNOCK KNOCK
WHAT IS IT? TODAY'S NOT A HOLIDAY YOU SHOULDN'T SKIP SCHOOL.
BOSS...
LET ME DO THE NEXT JOB!
HUH
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU.
BOSS!

I KNOW YOU'LL TAKE KAITO'S PLACE WHEN THE TIME COMES, BUT UNTIL THEN, YOU MUST STUDY HARD.
NOW GO BACK TO SCHOOL.
SHIT!
I KNOW I CAN DO IT JUST AS WELL...
KAITO... KAITO, IT'S BECAUSE OF HIM THAT I NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO PROVE MYSELF.

KNIFE
KAI.
CAN'T YOU QUIT?
YOUR JOB
RENGE
.....
KAI...
YOU'RE TORMENTED!
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS AFRAID OF SOMETHING
RRRRRING

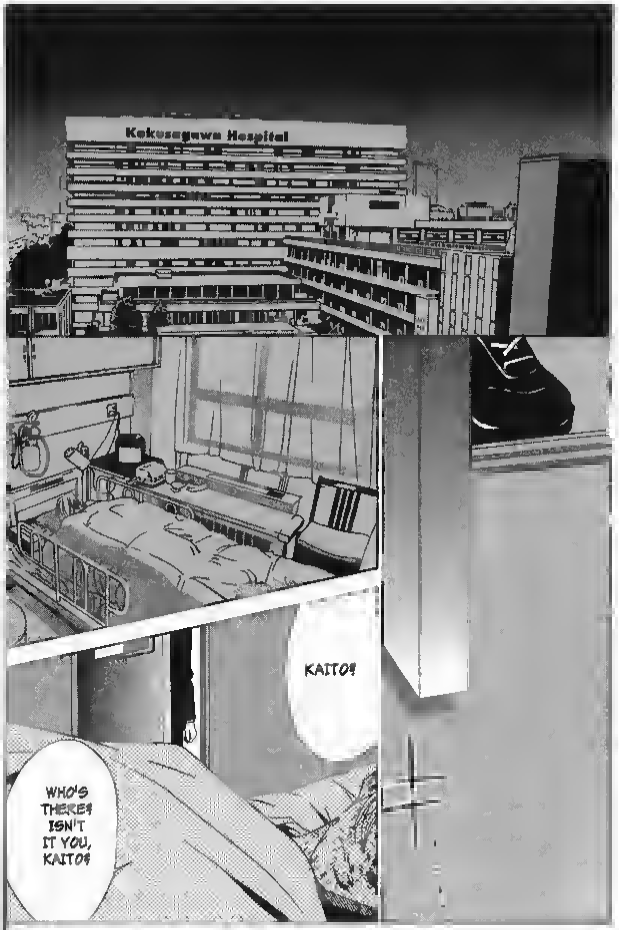
HEY, KAI!
HUH?
OH, I'M SORRY
SUSAKU-SAN'S LATE
KAI?
KAI, IT'S YOUR TURN
KAI?
SHHH!
I'M SORRY I FOUND HIM.
I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU WHEN YOU GOT HOME FROM WORK, BUT...
I warned you not to come out, kitty!
RENGE
DID YOU...?
ﾆｬｰ
PAT

IF MY BROTHER WERE DEAD...
I'D BE...
KAI!
YOUR BROTHER'S IN DANGER, ISN'T HE?
YOU HAVE TO HURRY!

SOME-ONE JUST ASKED ME WHERE YOUR BROTHER IS.
HE PUT A GUN TO MY HEAD. IT WAS A MAN, HE SOUNDED YOUNG... I DIDN'T SEE HIS FACE.
LISTEN, KAITO
IT'S WAY PAST OUR MEETING TIME.
SUGARU-SAN? WHAT'S GOING ON?

SOMEONE WITH A GUN
WHO, ON EARTH, WOULD... WHAT FOR...?
MY BROTHER...
HE'S A PRO WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU DO?
YOU'RE BROTHER'S BEEN TARGETED!
MY BROTHER IS A TARGET...?

IF I HADN'T ASKED HIM TO STAY, HE WOULDN'T HAVE... HE WOULDN'T HAVE.
HE BROUGHT ME TO THAT HOUSE, AND.
I WAS A LITTLE NERVOUS, SO I. I.
BUT--
MY BIG BROTHER!!
BUT AT LEAST YOU TWO ARE ALIVE.
BUT THE POLICE ARE BLAMING IT ON YOUR NEW PARENTS SMOKING IN BED
THEY SAY A COP'S SON SET THE HOUSE ON FIRE.
KAITO...
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THIS
IF HE CAN'T BE PUNISHED BY LAW, I WILL..
THOSE PEOPLE--MY PARENTS, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE
MY BROTHER...
MY LOVED ONES...
...HE WAS BURNED IN THE PROCESS.
BIG BROTHER SAVED ME FROM THE FIRE, AND...
WHAT WAS I...
THINKING JUST NOW...?
OH...
...RIGHT...
HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BURNED.
IF HE HADN'T COME BACK TO SAVE ME...
IF I HADN'T ASKED HIM TO STAY THAT EVENING...
I'M SORRY, BUT YOUR ADOPTIVE PARENTS DIED...
KAITO...
KAITO-KUN...
SOMEONE FROM THE ORPHANAGE IS HERE.


Kokusaguwa Hospital
KAITO!
WHO'S THERE? ISN'T IT YOU, KAITO?

KAI!
HURRY!
IF BIG BROTHER WEREN'T AROUND !!
WHAT NONSENSE!
SHIT..
WHAT IS THERE TO THINK ABOUT?
IT'S THE LIFE I CHOSE FOR MYSELF
HOW COULD I..

BIG BROTHER!!
BRO--
I DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME...
BECAUSE I HESITATED
KAI..
LOOK!
TWITCH
!

COME ON IN...
KREE

IT'S BEEN SO LONG, I HAD FORGOTTEN...
NO...
IT'S NOT A NICE THING
HOW IT FEELS TO STAB A HUMAN BEING
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY
OH, GOD... BROTHER...
GLAD... YOU SAY..
BIG BROTHER...
IT MAKES ME SHIVER...
I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE YOU A KILLER, KAITO
BUT. BECAUSE OF ME, YOU HAD TO DO IT.

I THOUGHT MY BODY WAS USELESS, BUT...
I REACTED INSTINCTIVELY I GRABBED THE PARING KNIFE WITH MY LEFT HAND, THE ONLY PART OF ME THAT STILL WORKS
BROTHER!!
IS THAT YOU, KAITO?
THEN ALL THIS BLOOD ISN'T YOURS!
SINCE I LOST MY SIGHT, MY SENSE OF SMELL HAS GOTTEN ACUTE.
YOU ALWAYS SMELL OF FLOWERS.
I RECOGNIZE YOU RIGHT AWAY
THAT'S HOW I KNEW
I KNEW THAT HE HAD COME TO KILL ME
BUT HE SMELLED OF GUNPOWDER.
THE SMELL OF BLOOD DOESN'T STARTLE ME. SINCE THIS IS A HOSPITAL.

BECAUSE OF ME, YOU HAVE TO KILL...
AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
...EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T WANT TO
I MADE CHOICES MYSELF, TOO.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT...
BROTHER...
I'M...
I KNOW, KAITO.

KAITO.
I'M THE ONE WHO SWORE LOYALTY TO THE ORGANIZATION
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
BUT THAT MEANS...
I WAS BORN AND THROWN AWAY, NOT WANTED BY ANYBODY
THE ORGANIZATION TOOK ME IN WHEN I WAS AT DEATH'S DOOR, AND GAVE ME SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR
...YOU CAN'T EVEN CHOOSE YOUR DEATH.
I SWORE I WOULD GIVE UP MY LIFE FOR THE ORGANIZATION.
I CHOSE TO BECOME ITS TOOL.

SO YOU DON'T OWE ME A THING. .
KAITO.
BECAUSE OF YOU, I CAN FINALLY. .
...DIE AS A HUMAN BEING, AND NOT AS A TOOL.

. I RISKED MY OWN LIFE TO SAVE YOU, BECAUSE I COULDN'T CONTROL MY EMOTIONS
SO YOU ENDED UP BECOMING AN ASSASSIN WITH YOUR HUMAN EMOTIONS INTACT .
EVEN THOUGH I TOLD YOU TO BECOME A TOOL WITH NO FEELINGS .

.. WHICH IS A MOST CRUEL FATE FOR YOU.
IT WAS SO I COULD BE HUMAN
I DID IT FOR MYSELF, OUT OF SELFISH INTENT.
AND IT WASN'T FOR YOU AT ALL. IN FACT..
KAITO, EVEN AT THE VERY END, I REACTED EMOTIONALLY.

. IT'S NOT SO GOOD FOR DODGING BULLETS
BEING BLIND HELPS HONE YOUR INSTINCTS, BUT...
GET THE DOCTOR!
NO, KAITO.
IT'S OKAY
QUICK!
BUT--
LET ME DIE...
...LIKE A HUMAN BEING
I TOLD YOU...

BROTHER...
THANKS, KAITO...

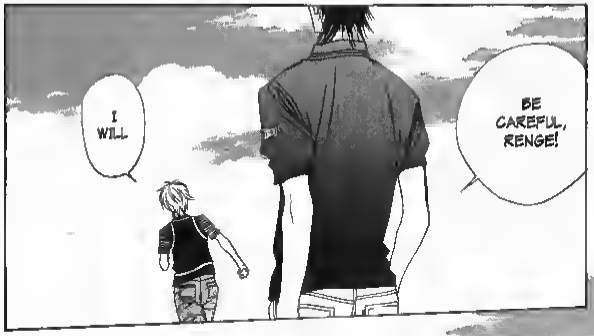
WHHSH
YOU'VE BEEN SHOT!
YOU'RE...

GO ON LIVING, KAITO
WE WERE UNWANTED CHILDREN. BUT THERE IS NO HUMAN BEING WHO IS NOT NEEDED IN THIS WORLD.
LIVE STRONG.
AS LONG AS YOU WERE BORN, KEEP LIVING!

BROTHER..
KAITO...
I WANTED TO PROTECT YOU, TOO.
JUST AS YOU WANT TO PROTECT RENGE AND HIS INNOCENCE.

BIG BROTHER..!!

IF BIG BROTHER HADN'T SAVED ME, I WOULD'VE DIED THAT DAY
I HAVE TO LIVE THE LIFE HE GAVE ME
I WON'T BE AFRAID ANYMORE
EVEN WHERE IT'S
PAVED OVER, SOMETHING GROWS


I WILL
BE CAREFUL, RENGE!

X-Kai- ⚜ End

kaito.
"He's a bit nerdy," one fan wrote. But when he takes his glasses off, he's definitely eye candy! It's required in girl manga. (Hee hee!)
Taking today's social situation into consideration I drew him to look older, but actually he's in his teens! He's an old-looking guy! Is it because he's been through a lot?

Postscript

Hello. Thank you for picking up this book. Since the story is rather bloody, I decided to introduce young Renge to lighten things up a little, and he ended up becoming the center of the story. Children ..I love them! This story ends here, but I would have liked to have shown a few more warm exchanges between Kai and Renge.

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Postscript ✠ End

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